Claim Amendments

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for providing distributed printing comprising:

a plurality of printers;

at least one print spooler for managing printing operations of the plurality of printers; and

at least one relational database coupled with the print spooler, the relational database including a plurality of tables, the plurality of tables storing a plurality of print objects to be ~~performed using~~ <u>used in</u> distributed printing, <u>the plurality of print objects each having a hierarchical name such that the hierarchical name determines location information</u>;

wherein the at least one print spooler is configured to utilize the at least one relational database to perform scheduling print jobs based on a plurality of factors including <u>the hierarchical name of one or more print objects,</u> a priority of the print job, an availability of at least one of the plurality of printers, and at least one other factor corresponding to at least one other of the plurality of print objects.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein a portion of the plurality of print objects corresponds to the plurality of printers.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of print objects includes a plurality of attributes for each of the plurality of printers.

4. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein a user of the system has access to each of the plurality of printers.

(Response to 12-29-2005 Final Office Action)

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the print spooler and relational database are configured so that continuous printing can be performed using the plurality of printers.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of print objects includes a plurality of print jobs.

7. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the plurality of print objects includes a plurality of attributes for each of the plurality of print jobs.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of print objects includes a plurality of users.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of objects includes a plurality of print events.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the print spooler further includes a graphical user interface capable of displaying a status of each of a portion of the plurality of objects.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the graphical user interface is updated using a query which retrieves only the status for each of a second portion of the plurality of objects that was updated after a previous query.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for providing distributed printing comprising:

a plurality of printers;

at least one print spooler for managing printing operations; and

at least one relational database coupled with the print spooler, the relational database including a plurality of tables for storing a plurality of print objects to be ~~performed using~~ used in distributed printing, each print object having a hierarchical name such that the hierarchical name determines location information, the plurality of tables includes a printer table for the plurality of printers, a jobs table for a plurality of print jobs, an accounts table for a plurality of users, and a history table for a plurality of print events and wherein the plurality of objects includes the plurality of

printers, the plurality of print jobs, the plurality of users, and the plurality of print events, the plurality of printers, the plurality of print jobs, the plurality of users;

wherein the at least one print spooler is configured to utilize the at least one relational database to perform scheduling the plurality of print jobs based on a plurality of factors including the hierarchical name of one or more print objects, a priority of the plurality of print jobs, an availability of at least one of the plurality of printers, and at least one other factor corresponding to at least one other of the plurality of print objects.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the plurality of tables includes a history table and the plurality of objects includes a plurality of print events.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12 further comprising a network interface layer for connecting the at least one print spooler with the at least one relational database.

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15. (Currently Amended) A method for performing distributed printing comprising:

(a) using at least one print spooler to access at least one relational database including a plurality of tables to schedule at least one print job to be ~~performed using~~ used in distributed printing, the plurality of tables storing a plurality of print objects including a plurality of printers, each print object having a hierarchical name such that the hierarchical name determines location information, the using the at least one print job including utilizing the at least one print spooler and the at least one relational database to perform scheduling the at least one print job based on a plurality of factors including the hierarchical name of one or more print objects, a priority of the plurality of print jobs, an availability of at least one of the plurality of printers, and at least one other factor corresponding to at least one other of the plurality of print objects; and

(b) printing the at least one print job to at least one of the plurality of printers.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the plurality of print objects includes a plurality of attributes for the plurality of printers and a plurality of job attributes for the at least one print job, and wherein the accessing step (a) further includes:

(a1) matching a portion of the plurality attributes of the at least one of the plurality of printers to the plurality of job attributes for the at least one print job.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the accessing step (a) is performed using a query provided by the at least one print spooler to the relational database.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the plurality of objects includes a plurality of print events.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the print spooler further includes a graphical user interface capable of displaying a status of each of a portion of the plurality of objects.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising:

(c)   periodically updating the graphical user interface using a query that retrieves only the status for each of a second portion of the plurality of objects that was updated after a previous query.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein at least one of each of the at least one print spooler and each of the at least one relational database are stored on a plurality of servers.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 wherein at least one of each of the at least one print spooler and each of the at least one relational database are stored on a plurality of servers.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 wherein the at least one print spooler and the at least one relational database are configured so that continuous printing can be performed using the plurality of printers.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of each of the at least one print spooler and each of the at least one relational database are stored on a plurality of servers.

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25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 further comprising:

allowing at least one print spooler and the at least one relational database to perform continuous printing using the plurality of printers.